

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2006***

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. Selectmen present were: Wes Moore and James McIlroy. Others present were: Paul Deschaines, Jed Rumford, Chief Reed, Chief Brian Page of North Hampton, Chief Kevin Cyr of Newmarket, Chief Mike Daley of Stratham, Lt. Gould, Chief Bob Wareham (Pittsfield), Officer Tanya Lampi, Jamie Thompson, Winn Fream, Mike Sununu, and John Hayden.

The Board thanked the many Police Chiefs for attending the meeting and giving their input on dispatch services. In order to keep the Town's dispatch service with Newmarket Dispatch, the yearly fee will rise to \$40,374.00 by the year 2010. The Town can receive dispatch service through Rockingham County Dispatch at no additional charge over and above what Newfields pays the County for taxes.

Newfields, Newmarket, and Stratham have a unique situation where the three towns are always backed up by each other. Fire, Police, and Highway are all dispatched by Newmarket and the dispatch center will contact all necessary personnel to respond with just one contact from a department.

If Newfields goes with Rockingham Dispatch, they will have to switch over to new radio channels which are not monitored by Newmarket and Stratham. Therefore, if there is a need for backup there will be a delay as Newmarket or Stratham would have to call Rockingham Dispatch with that call for backup.

The major concern with the Chiefs is that Rockingham County Dispatch is so busy that calls are not heard immediately. In bad weather or in large emergencies, there is so much air traffic that calls from Towns other than Brentwood, Epping, or Kingston could not get through to dispatch. Seabrook Station also uses Rockingham Dispatch for emergencies which further delays any response time to the local police departments. This does not affect Newfields, Newmarket, and Stratham because Newmarket Dispatch handles that portion of calls for the three towns.

All in all, none of the Chiefs were in favor of moving dispatch services to Rockingham County Dispatch. They realize that paying Newmarket Dispatch is a large expense for the Town of Newfields, but feel the citizens, fire department, and police department would be better served by keeping the contract with Newmarket Dispatch. Response times to calls is quicker and the Newmarket Dispatch Center knows when backup is needed or if a call to a certain property will require two officers to respond instead of one. Information is transmitted

faster by Newmarket than it would be by Rockingham.

Newmarket Dispatch is re-building the Dispatch Center with a state-of –the-art digital system. Homeland Security Funds and Town funds will pay for this new center.

Wes stated that he had been leaning towards switching to Rockingham County Dispatch, but after hearing from the Chiefs tonight, he feels the Town should not make a change. However, the Selectmen will wait until the full Board is together before putting this matter to a vote.

James feels that staying with Newmarket Dispatch makes the most sense and is better for the Townspeople. He does not want to lose the cooperation and continuity with Newmarket and Stratham for police, fire, and ambulance services.

Chief Reed informed the Selectmen that Officer Steve McAulay will start attending the Police Academy on January 8th. Chief Reed is also in the process of hiring three additional part-time officers.

The Budget Advisory Committee members attended tonight's meeting and Paul Deschaine stayed to speak with them about the Lamprey Regional Cooperative renewal contract. (Wes Moore is the representative from Newfields to the Cooperative.) The price at the Lamprey will be increasing – approximately \$3,200. in 2007 – and will be in effect for ten years. Wes is authorized to sign the renewal contract. Paul also spoke about his negotiations with Bestway Disposal Service whose contract is also expiring this year. He told Bestway that the Towns are looking for a long term contract, but it must be competitive. He is also getting quotes from other companies for the curbside pickup.

The members of the Budget Advisory Committee stated that they would have liked to be in on the meeting regarding dispatch. They feel the people speaking at tonight's meeting have a vested interest in keeping Newfields with Newmarket Dispatch.

The Committee would like to meet with the Selectmen and Chief Reed to go over the Police Department Budget for 2007. The Selectmen asked Nancy to contact the Chief about attending next week's meeting.

They also need to meet again with Larry Arend and the Library Trustees to review the changes the Committee asked for in the Library budget for 2007.

Prime Wetlands was discussed with the Budget Advisory Committee. As Alison Watts of the Conservation Commission is meeting with the Selectmen next week to discuss this issue, it was recommended that the BAC members attend the meeting to have their questions answered.

John Hayden mentioned that the Capital Improvement Project meeting was well

attended. Sue McKinnon is sending out a questionnaire to the departments for more detailed projections on their future needs.

Wes spoke with Urban Tree Service and convinced them to reduce their price to take down nine trees on the property line between the Town Office and the Piers Lloyd-Owen property. Wes made a motion to authorize Urban Tree Service to remove those nine trees with the Town of Newfields paying \$250. and Piers Lloyd Owen paying the balance of \$1,250. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor. Nancy will contact Urban for a new contract for the Town with a charge of \$250. and a separate contract with Piers for \$1,250. Both contracts will need to be signed before the trees can be removed.

James made a motion to approve the renewal contact with the Lamprey Regional Cooperative. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

There was a complaint about the state of the Town Hall after it was rented by Girls on the Run. Wes will contact Lyndy Sargent (who rented the Hall for the group) and speak with her about the situation. People and/or groups renting the Town Hall are responsible for returning the Hall to the condition it was in before they occupied it.

The Selectmen asked Nancy to contact the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer about attending the Selectmen's Meeting on December 5th.

The offer from Key Roofing to purchase the salvaged slate shingles from the Town was rejected. The Selectmen feel that the used slate is worth much more than the offer.

The correspondence from Lane Law Offices was reviewed.

The notice from the Rockingham Planning Commission was reviewed. Nancy gave copies of this notice to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and the Building Inspector.

The application from the Boys Scouts to rent the Town Hall for five meetings was rejected. The Selectmen said the fee for the meetings totals \$250. and a check for \$25. was attached to the application. Nancy was asked to contact the organization about the fee for the rentals.

Two Abatements for penalty assessments were not signed by the Selectmen. The Inventory Forms are required by law and one must be completed for each property in Town.

Two Land Use Change Tax forms were signed.

The letters to former police officers Brett Wells and Chris Hutchins were reviewed. James will revise the letters and have ready for the Selectmen's signatures next week. Nancy will have a check issued for holiday pay due to Officer Wells.

Checks were signed.

The Selectmen's Minutes for the meetings on November 7, 2006 and November 14, 2006 were not approved as there was not a quorum at the meeting.

The Lane Law Office invoices for conservation services were approved by the Selectmen and forwarded to the Conservation Commission.

The Open Items list was reviewed and the following items were added – Secretary Annual Review, Qualified Deputy Treasurer, Personnel Policy Revisions, and Police Chief Contract.

The application for reimbursement of mosquito control expenses from the State of New Hampshire was tabled until next week.

James made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35pm. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer